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Statement submitted by Association démocratique des femmes du Maroc, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The Association démocratique des femmes du Maroc (ADFM) considers that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be adopted in September 2015 constitute a real advance over the Millennium Development Goals. Indeed, the SDGs lend much greater emphasis to gender issues: equality, non-discrimination and the fight against gender-based violence. They are important, moreover, because of the interest they will arouse and the mobilization they will produce, the data gathering in the field they will enable, and the substantial financing for sustainable development they will make possible.

However, the Association démocratique des femmes du Maroc does wish to draw the attention of the Economic and Social Council and the High Level Segment to the following four points which, in its opinion, are worrisome:

1 – Universality

States are not required to comply with international law, in particular with respect to indicators 5.4, relating to unpaid care and domestic work, and 5(a), relating to the enjoyment of equal rights to economic resources. These indicators maintain notions of conformity with "the national context" and "national laws". They should be revised so that the universality of rights is respected and achievement of the results set out in SDG 5 is not jeopardized.

2 – Consistency

We detect a certain lack of consistency. As an example, although SDGs 1 and 5 contain the same indicator—at 1.4 and 5.a, only the latter, relating to equality, is made subject to conformity with national laws.

Similarly, gender mainstreaming is not systematically reflected in all SDGs. Indeed, SDG 16 (Governance), for one, is silent on that point, particularly with regard to women's access to justice and the various elective offices.

3 – Effectiveness/efficiency

The SDGs' effectiveness and efficiency will be compromised by the fact that each country will set its own targets. This will prevent real gender equality from being achieved in the country and will perpetuate, or even worsen, the shortcomings in that area, since the achievement of gender equality is left to each country's discretion and good will.

The lack of effectiveness/efficiency will also have consequences for funding. Much fund raising will be required for the SDGs to be successfully implemented; but, absent any specific global targets, the aid given will not fight gender inequalities in the regions/countries that stand most in need of it.

4 - Accountability

As regards accountability, it is essential to provide a monitoring and evaluation mechanism, taking a participatory approach, for worldwide implementation of the SDGs. Furthermore, the involvement in this process of civil society organizations, including those that advocate for human rights and women's rights, is imperative, so that credible monitoring and evaluation can be done in the field on the impact the SDGs will have on populations.